SUPERMAN & MR. MIRACLE
75¢
593
OCT. 87
ACTION
COMICS
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BY JOHN BYRNE
WITH KEITH WILLIAMS
SUPERMAN AND...MY WIFE?!
10
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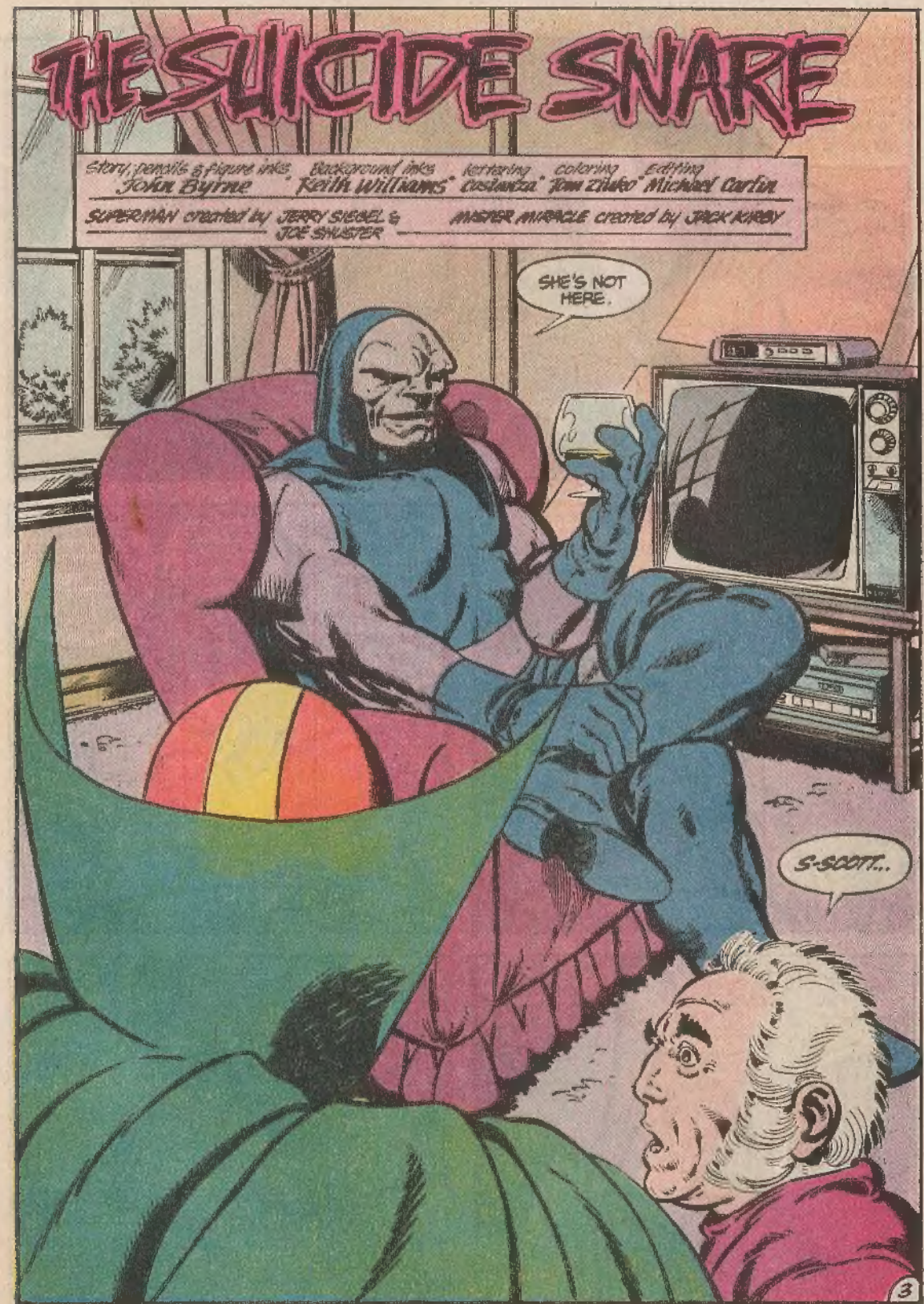
STOP-WATCH READY?
READY!
TIMER ACTIVATED!
NINE SECONDS TO DETONA-TION!
EIGHT SECONDS...
SEVEN SECONDS...
SIX...
FIVE...
FOUR...
THREE...
TWO...
G-3333

HI, HONEY...
WE'RE HOME!
BARDA...?



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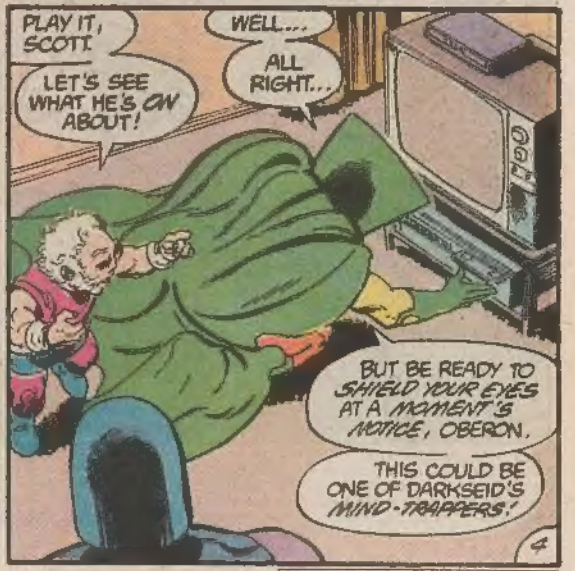
SPARE US THE RIDDLES, STONE FACE!
IF YOU CAME HERE TO SAY SOMETHING...
SAY IT!!
YOU ARE AS FEISTY AS EVER, OBERON.
GOOD! AS LONG AS YOU CONTINUE TO AMUSE ME, I SHALL CONTINUE TO LET YOU LIVE.


PLAY IT, SCOTT.
LET'S SEE WHAT HE'S ON ABOUT!
WELL....
ALL RIGHT...
BUT BE READY TO SHIELD YOUR EYES AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE, OBERON.
THIS COULD BE ONE OF DARKSEID'S MIND-TRAPPERS!
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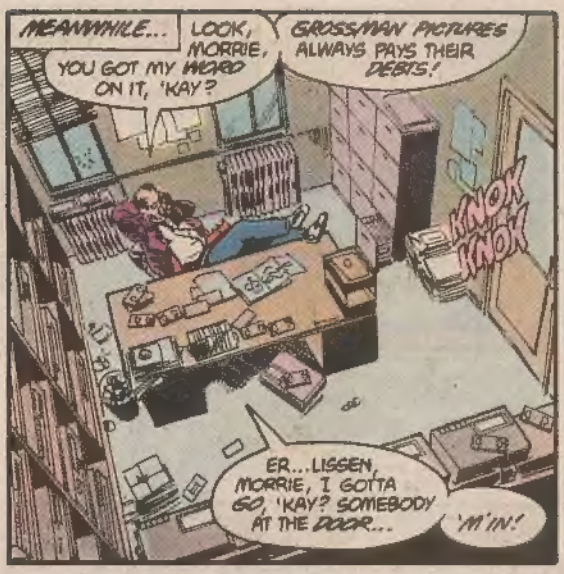
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

AHAH! WHAT IS THIS TAPE? CAN'T SAY MUCH FOR THE PRODUCTION VALUES!
LOOKS LIKE IT WAS SHOT IN A SEWER... SCOTT! IS THAT BARDA??
IT IS!! I HARDLY RECOGNIZED HER UNDER THAT AWFUL MAKE-UP! WHAT'S SHE...
SCOTT...!!
MY ASSENTS ACQUIRED THIS TELEVISUAL FEAST FROM A SMALL SHOP IN METROPOLIS.
A SHOP WHICH SPECIALIZES IN SUCH FARE.
IT IS LOCATED ON A BACK STREET CALLED HOB'S LANE.
HOB'S...
THAT'S RIGHT ON THE EDGE OF SUICIDE SLUM!
THE DARTIEST, MOST DANGEROUS AREA IN ALL METROPOLIS!
AND BARDA IS THERE!?!
WHY? HOW?
AND WHAT'S YOUR PART IN THIS?
CALM YOURSELF, SCOTT FREE!
SUCH RAMPANT EMOTION WILL NOT HELP YOUR WIFE!
5


MEANWHILE...
LOOK, MORRIE, YOU GOT MY WORD ON IT, 'KAY?
GROSSMAN PICTURES ALWAYS PAYS THEIR DEBTS!
KNOK KNOK
ER...LISSEN, MORRIE, I GOTTA GO, 'KAY? SOMEBODY AT THE DOOR...
'M'IN!

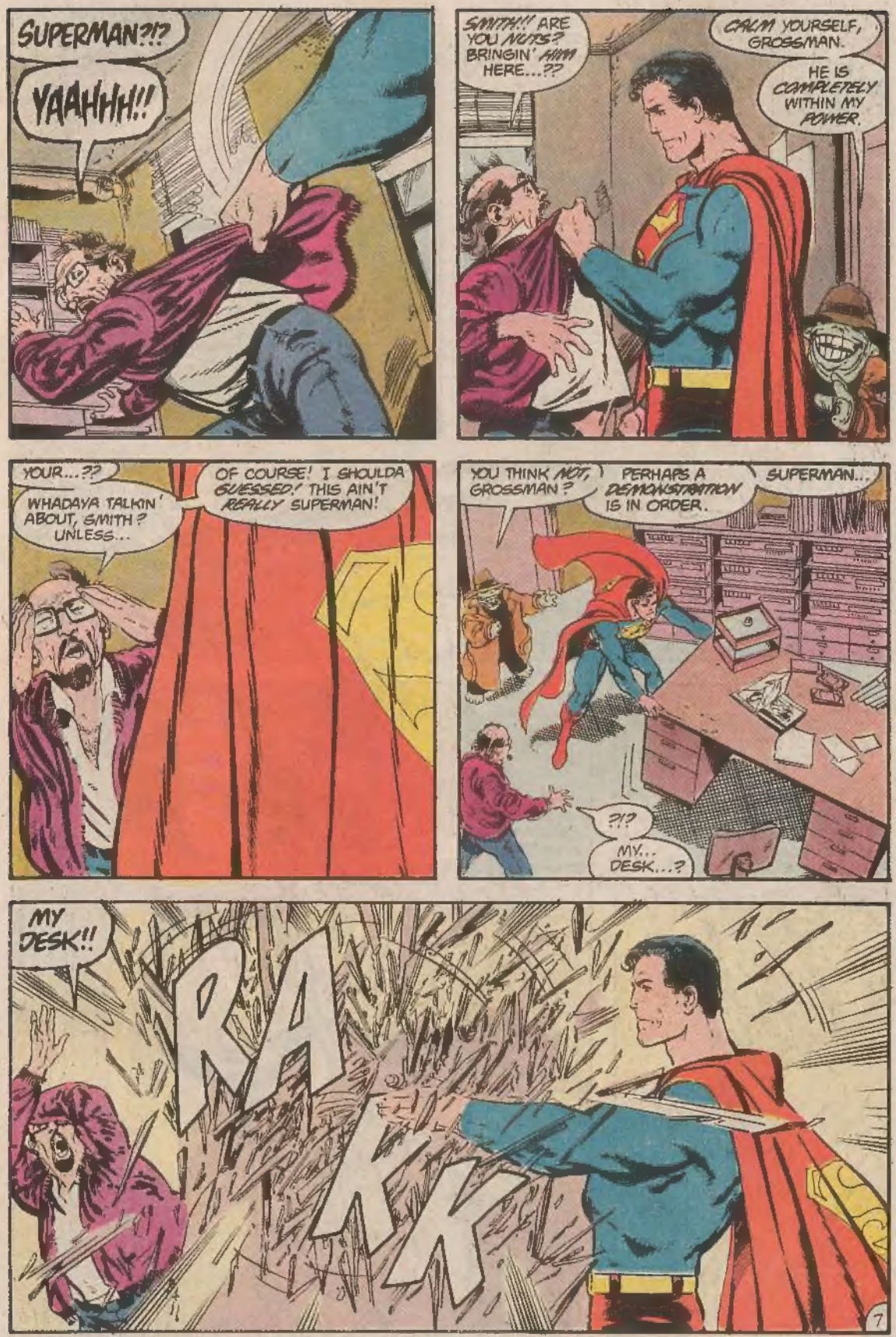
HEY! MR. SMITH!
I WAS JUST THINKIN' ABOUT YOU!
WERE YOU, GROSSMAN?

SURE! SURE! I WAS JUST GONNA CALL YOU. THAT VIDEOTAPE YOU GAVE ME IS TERRIFIC!
I'VE NEVER HADDA PRODUCE SO MANY COPIES SO FAST, BUT IT WAS WORTH IT!
WORD OF MOUTH IS BRINGIN' IN ORDERS IN TH' THOUSANDS!
I AM GONNA MAKE ME A MILLION BUCKS!!

"I..."?
DON'T YOU MEAN "WE," GROSSMAN?
OH...ER...SURE! SLIP OF TH' TONGUE, 'KAY?

GOOD.. I WOULD HATE TO SEE OUR PARTNERSHIP DISSOLVED, GROSSMAN.
ESPECIALLY WHEN IT HAS BEEN SO LUCRATIVE.
AND ESPECIALLY...

...WHEN IT IS ABOUT TO GET EVEN BETTER!


SUPERMAN?!?
YAAHHH!!
SMITH!! ARE YOU NUTS? BRINGIN' HIM HERE...??
CALM YOURSELF, GROSSMAN.
HE IS COMPLETELY WITHIN MY POWER.
YOUR...??
WHADAYA TALKIN' ABOUT, SMITH? UNLESS...
OF COURSE! I SHOULDA GUESSED! THIS AIN'T REALLY SUPERMAN!
YOU THINK NOT, GROSSMAN?
PERHAPS A DEMONSTRATION IS IN ORDER.
SUPERMAN...
?!?
MY... DESK...?
MY DESK!!
RA-AK

M-MY DESK...
I TAKE IT YOU ARE CONVINCED?
YOU CAN IMAGINE, THEN, THE PROFITS TO BE MADE OUT OF THE PROPER EXPLOITATION?
YOU MEAN...
I CAN USE SUPERMAN IN MY VIDEOS?
I LIKE YOUR THINKIN', SMITH. BUT...
IF THIS REALLY IS SUPERMAN...
HOW DO YOU CONTROL HIM?
AN UNIMPORTANT DETAIL, GROSSMAN.
YOU DO NOT NEED TO KNOW ANY MORE THAN YOU ALREADY DO.
THAT WILL BE ENOUGH TO MAKE THE MONEY I NEED TO FORGE MY ARMY!
ARMY, HUH?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR GAME IS, SMITH, BUT I THINK MAYBE YOU'RE OVER-LOOKIN' SOMETHIN'. THERE AIN'T MUCH MARKET F'R SOLO ACTS...
AN' ANY CO-STARS GONNA WIND UP LOOKING LIKE MY DESK!
YOU FORGET, GROSSMAN.
I HAVE ALREADY ACQUIRED THE PERFECT CO-STAR FOR THE MAN OF STEEL.
THE ONE AND ONLY BIG BARDA!!
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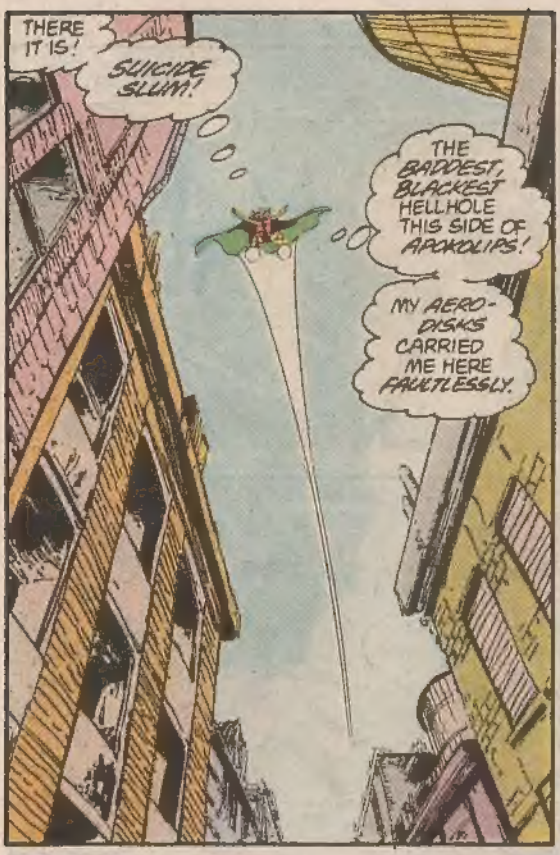
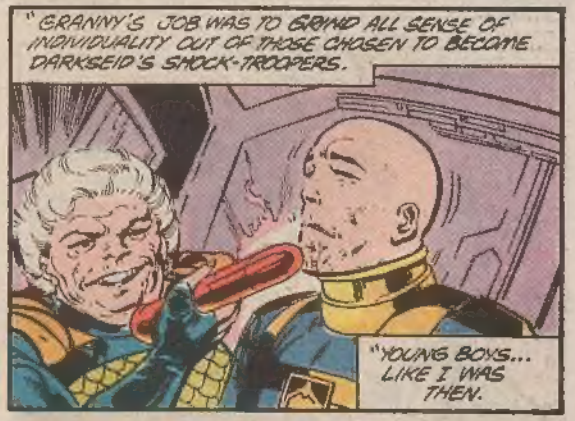

THERE IT IS!
SUICIDE SLUM!
THE BADDEST, BLACKEST HELLHOLE THIS SIDE OF APOKOLIPS!
MY AERO-DISKS CARRIED ME HERE FAULTLESSLY.

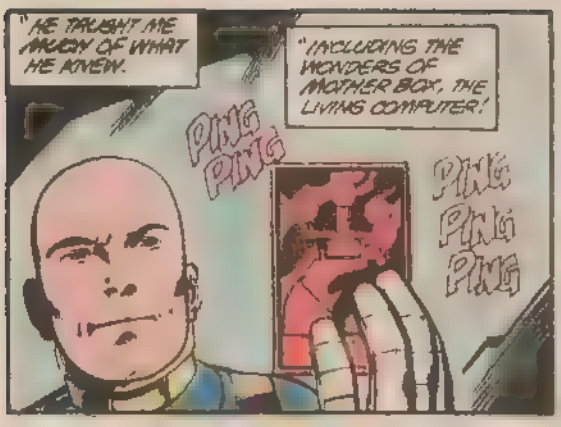
DARKSEID SAID BARDA IS BEING HELD SOMEWHERE DOWN THERE.
I BELIEVE HIM.
I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY HE'D TELL ME.
THIS ISN'T NEARLY SUBTLE ENOUGH TO BE ONE OF HIS TRAPS!

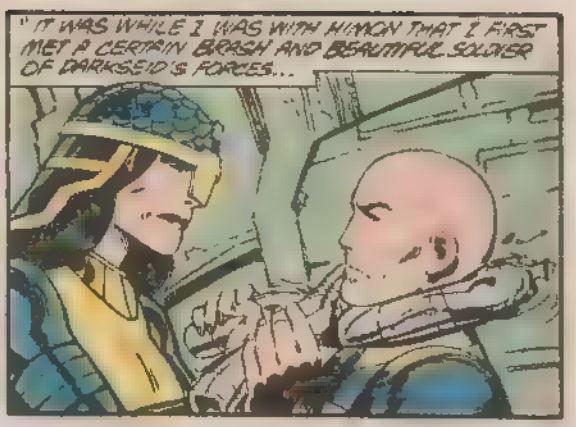
"I LEARNED WELL THE WAYS OF DARKSEID, RAISED AS I WAS IN GRANNY GOODNESS' "ORPHANAGE" ON THE PLANET APOKOLIPS!

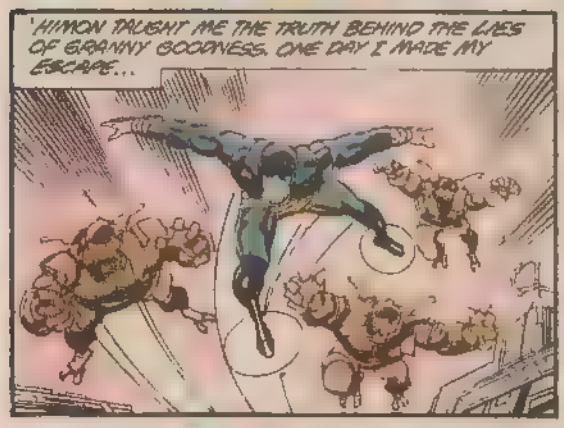

"GRANNY'S JOB WAS TO GRIND ALL SENSE OF INDIVIDUALITY OUT OF THOSE CHOSEN TO BECOME DARKSEID'S SHOCK-TROOPERS.
"YOUNG BOYS... LIKE I WAS THEN.

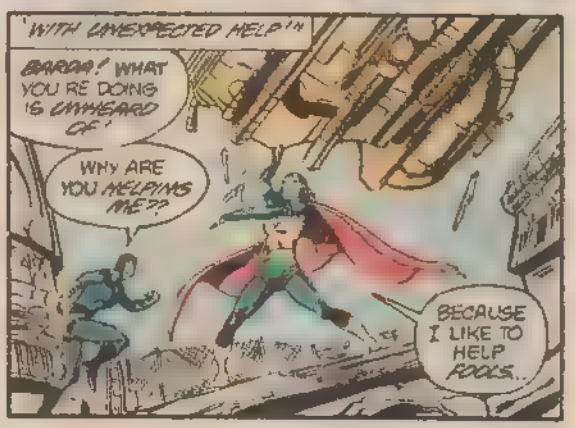
"SHE DID HER JOB WELL. I MIGHT HAVE BEEN CRUSHED...
"BUT FOR A SURPRISING TURN IN MY REGIMENTED LIFE..."
DON'T STAND THERE STARING!
GIVE ME YOUR HAND!

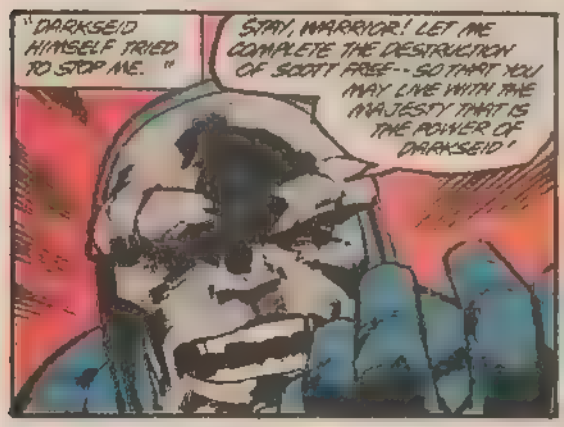
"HIS NAME WAS HIMROM. HE WAS THE GREATEST ESCAPE ARTIST IN THE WORLD--PERHAPS THE UNIVERSE!
9

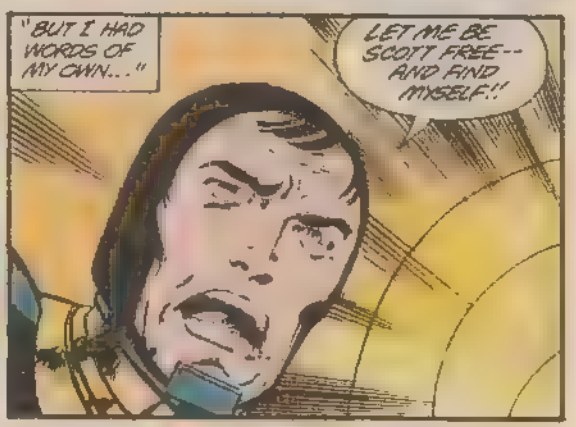

"HE TAUGHT ME MUCH OF WHAT HE KNEW.
"INCLUDING THE WONDERS OF MOTHER BOX, THE LIVING COMPUTER!
PING PING
PING PING PING

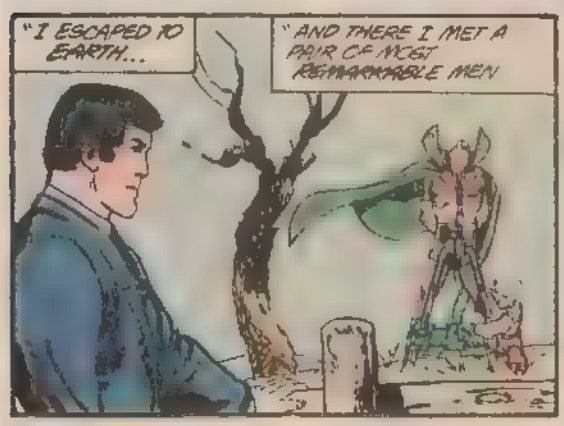

"IT WAS WHILE I WAS WITH HIMON THAT I FIRST MET A CERTAIN BRASH AND BEAUTIFUL SOLDIER OF DARKSEID'S FORCES...

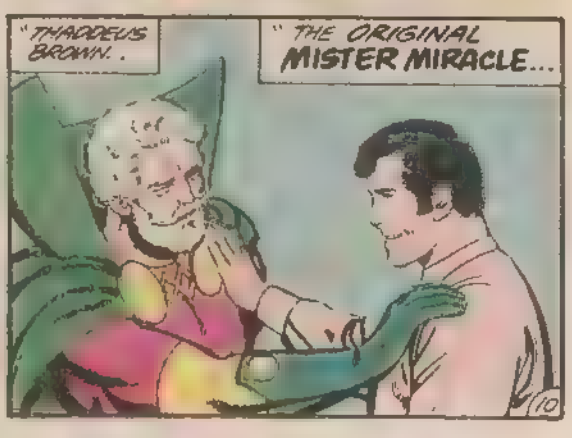

'HIMON TAUGHT ME THE TRUTH BEHIND THE LIES OF GRANNY GOODNESS. ONE DAY I MADE MY ESCAPE...

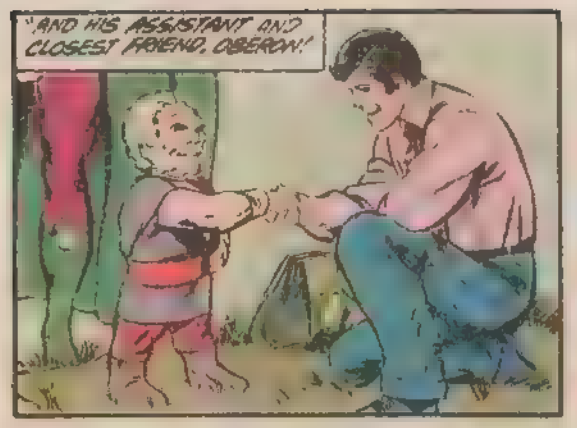

'WITH UNEXPECTED HELP.'"
BARDA! WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS UNHEARD OF!
WHY ARE YOU HELPING ME??
BECAUSE I LIKE TO HELP FOOLS..

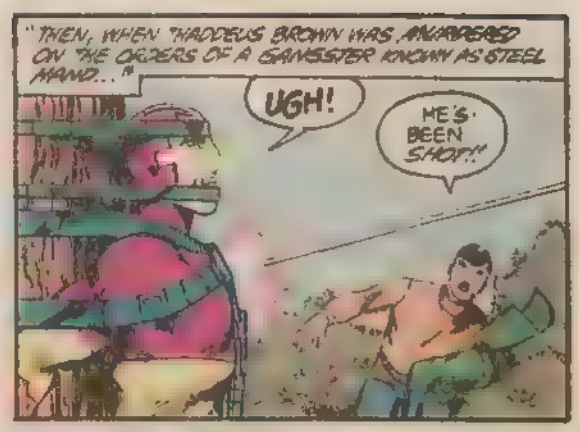

"DARKSEID HIMSELF TRIED TO STOP ME. "
STAY, WARRIOR! LET ME COMPLETE THE DESTRUCTION OF SCOTT FREE--SO THAT YOU MAY LIVE WITH THE MAJESTY THAT IS THE POWER OF DARKSEID!

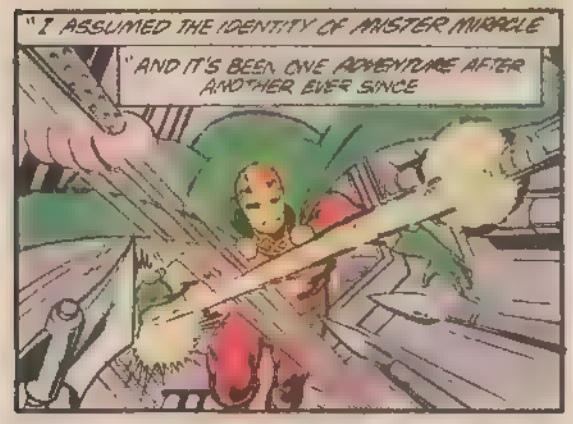

"BUT I HAD WORDS OF MY OWN..."
LET ME BE SCOTT FREE--AND FIND MYSELF!!

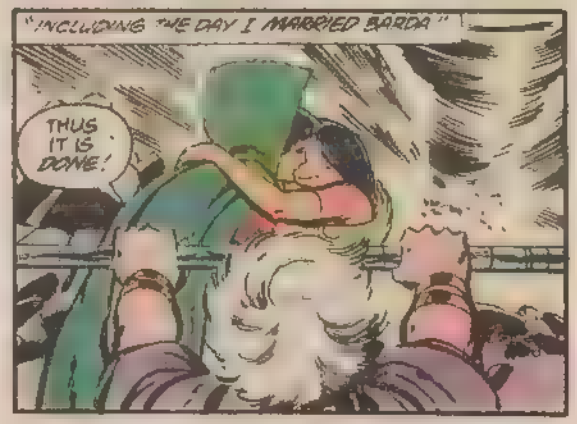

"I ESCAPED TO EARTH...
"AND THERE I MET A PAIR OF MOST REMARKABLE MEN

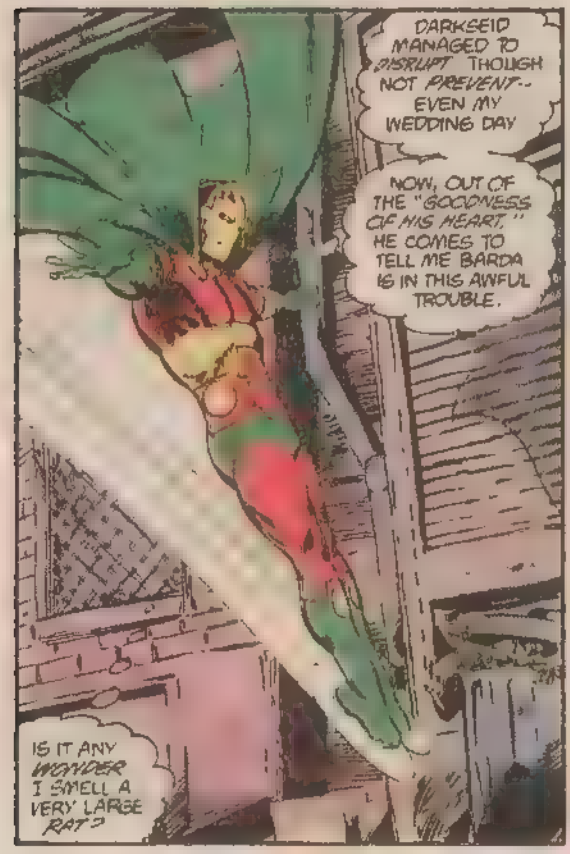

"THADDEUS BROWN..
"THE ORIGINAL MISTER MIRACLE...


"AND HIS ASSISTANT AND CLOSEST FRIEND, OBERON!"


"THEN, WHEN THADDEUS BROWN WAS ANNIHILATED ON THE ORDERS OF A GANGSTER KNOWN AS STEEL HAND..."
UGH!
HE'S BEEN SHOT!!


"I ASSUMED THE IDENTITY OF ANSTER MIRACLE
"AND IT'S BEEN ONE ADVENTURE AFTER ANOTHER EVER SINCE


"INCLUDING THE DAY I MARRIED BARDA"
THUS IT IS DONE!


DARKSEID MANAGED TO DISRUPT THOUGH NOT PREVENT-- EVEN MY WEDDING DAY
NOW, OUT OF THE "GOODNESS OF HIS HEART," HE COMES TO TELL ME BARDA IS IN THIS AWFUL TROUBLE.
IS IT ANY WONDER I SMELL A VERY LARGE RAT?

HM MOTHER BOX SENSES NO IMMEDIATE DANGER.
I WONDER

NAIL 'IM!!

YAH! YAH!!
WHUK WHUK WHUK

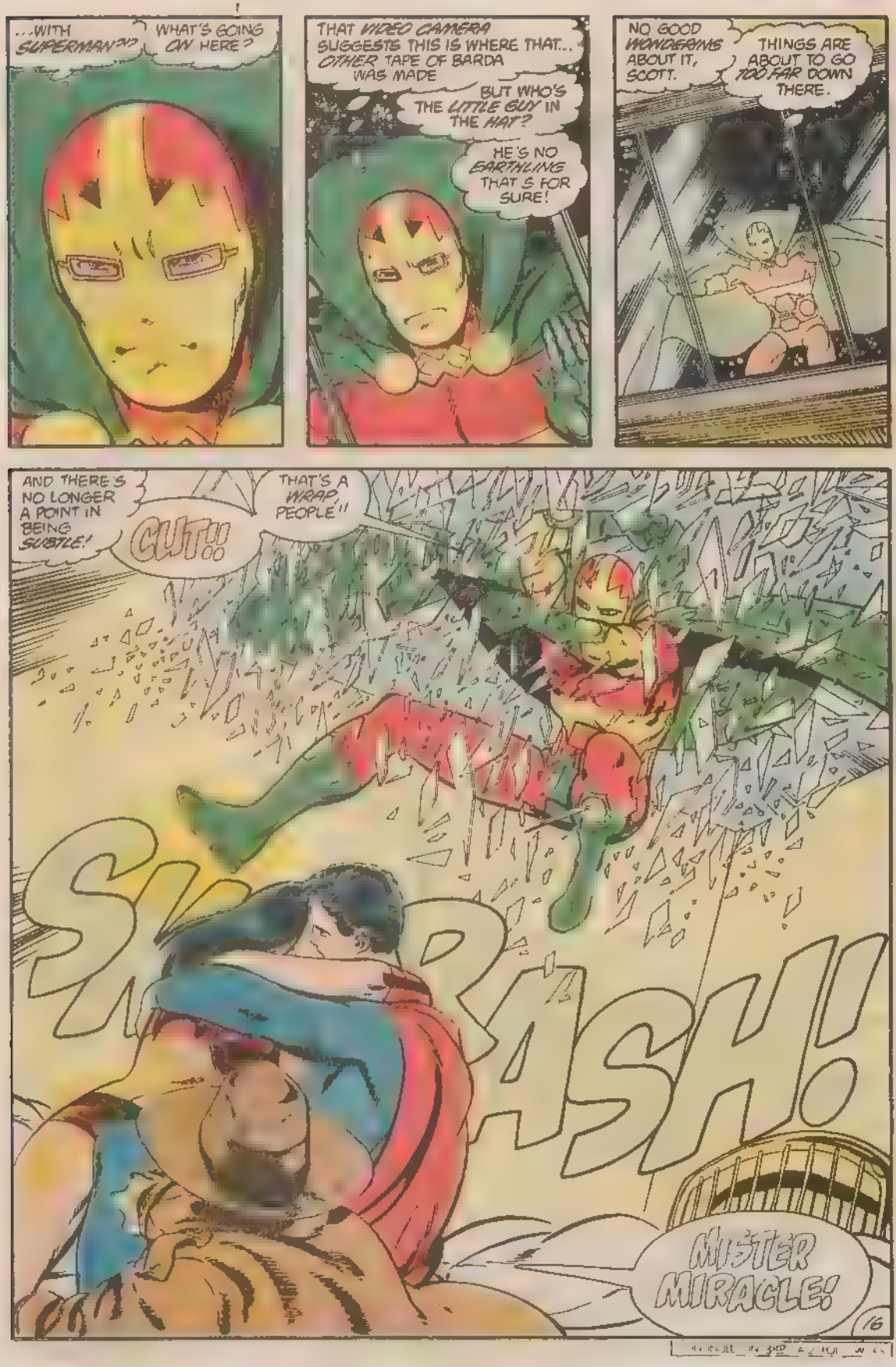
GET 'IM IN TH' SACK!!
CHAIN 'IM!
CHAIN 'IM!!

INTA TH' DUMPSTER!!
INTA TH' DUMPSTER!!
FASTER!
FASTER!!
2

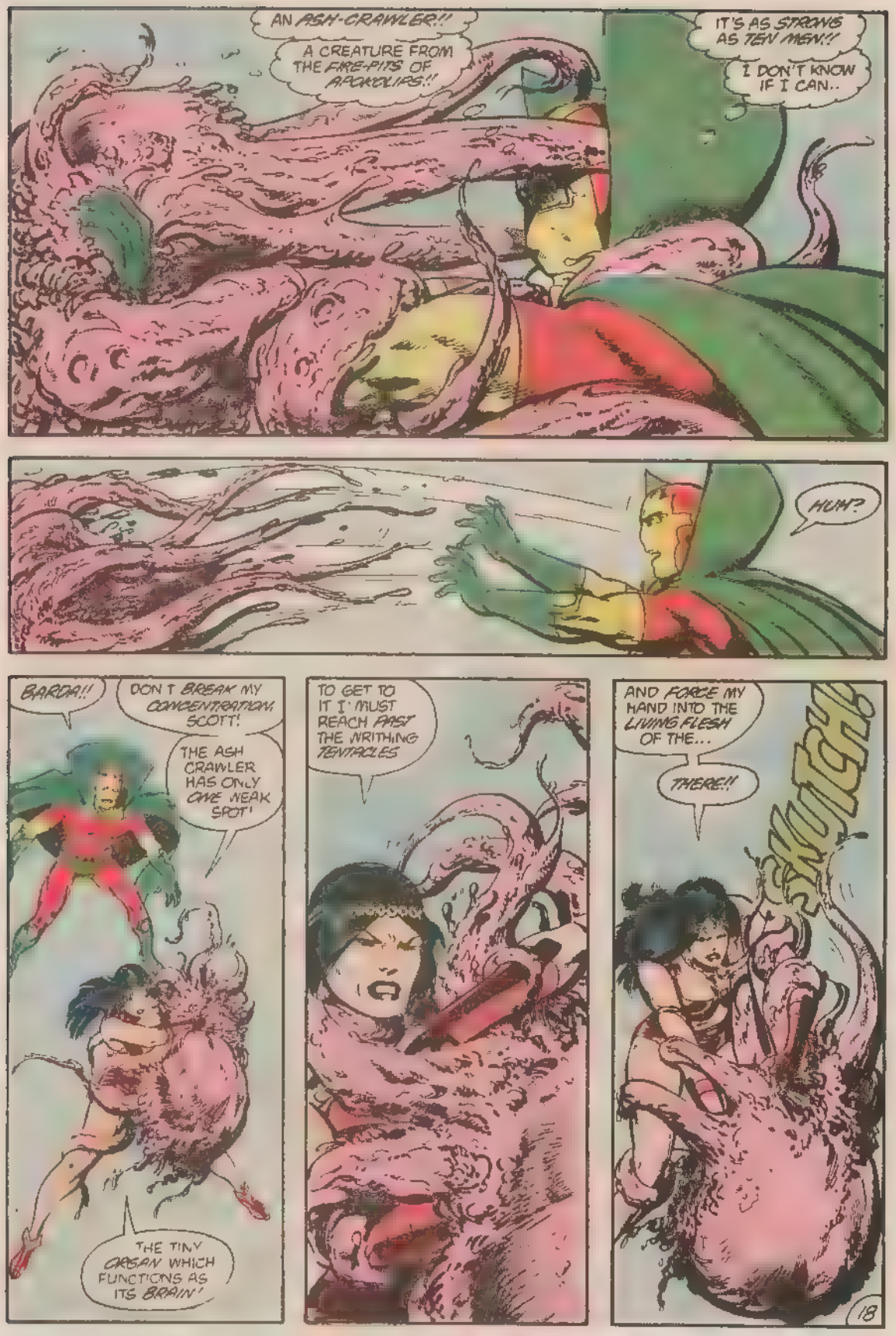
TOSS 'IM IN'
TOSS 'IM IN'!!
GARBAGE!!
MORE GARBAGE!!
FILL IT UP!
FILL IT UP!!
WELD THE LID SHUT!
HURRY!
HURRY!!
DOWN TO THE WATER!
DOWN TO THE WATER!!
THROW 'IM IN!
THROW 'IM IN!!
BLOOSH!
13

MOTHER BOX WAS RIGHT..
THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE DANGER.
THAT PROBABLY WON'T COME UNTIL I FIND BARDA!
NOW... WHERE CAN SHE BE??
NO!
NO!
NO!!
YOU CALL THAT ACTING?!?
I WANT PASSION HERE!
I WANT RAW, SEETHING EMOTION!!
SUPERMAN'S GOT ALL THE SEX APPEAL OF A SIDE OF BEEF!!
SMITH..WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM??
HE IS... RESISTING ME.
I HAD NOT ANTICIPATED THIS.
JUST AS A PERSON UNDER HYPNOSIS CANNOT BE COMPELLED TO DO ANYTHING THEY WOULD NOT NORMALLY DO...
SUPERMAN'S STRONG MORAL FIBRE IS MAKING HIM RESISTANT TO MY POWER!
19

BUT THAT MAKES MY CONQUEST OF HIM ONLY MORE DESIRABLE!
I MUST BREAK HIS WILL!
I SHALL BREAK HIS WILL!!
I AM AN EMPATH! I FEED ON THE EMOTIONS OF OTHERS
THE BASE EMOTIONS THE DARK, HIDDEN DEPRAVITY BURIED DEEP IN THE CORE OF EVERY HUMAN SOUL.
I DRAW OUT THAT HIDDEN SELF
WITH MY PSYCHIC POWER I AM ABLE TO FAN THAT FLICKERING SPARK INTO A FLAME, A CONFLAGRATION!
AND THE GREATER THE DEPTH OF THE DEPRAVITY
THE MORE FOOD FOR ME!!
AND TO CORRUPT ONE AS PURE AND NOBLE AS SUPERMAN..
WOULD PROVIDE ME WITH A BANQUET!
A FEAST!!
B-BARDA!!

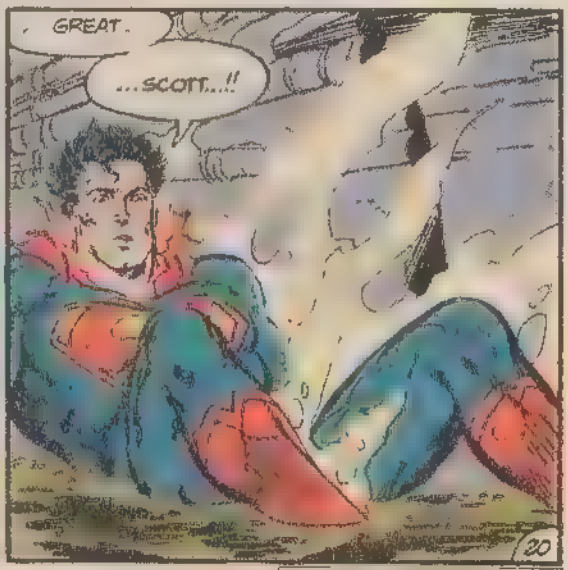

...WITH SUPERMAN?!?
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
THAT VIDEO CAMERA SUGGESTS THIS IS WHERE THAT... OTHER TAPE OF BARDA WAS MADE
BUT WHO'S THE LITTLE GUY IN THE HAT?
HE'S NO EARTHLING THAT'S FOR SURE!
NO GOOD WONDERING ABOUT IT, SCOTT.
THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GO TOO FAR DOWN THERE.
AND THERE'S NO LONGER A POINT IN BEING SUBTLE!
CUT!!
THAT'S A WRAP, PEOPLE!!
SMASH!
MISTER MIRACLE!

BUT YOU CAN'T BE HERE!!
YOU FORGET-- SURVIVING IS WHAT I DO FOR A LIVING, LITTLE FRIEND
I INSTRUCTED MY ARMY HOW TO DISPOSE OF YOU
HOW COULD YOU SURVIVE??
"IT WAS EASY TO ROLL WITH YOUR GOONS' ATTACK. I WAS STILL CONSCIOUS WHEN THEY TOSSED ME IN THAT DUMPSTER
"SO ALL I NEEDED WAS THE CUTTING LASER OF MY MULTI-CUBE.
"AND THE LIGHT OF THE WELDING TORCH HID THE SIGNS OF MY CUTTING OUT OF YOUR THIRD-RATE TRAP!"
CLEVER, MIRACLE. BUT NOT CLEVER ENOUGH!
WRONG AGAIN!
GRANNY TRAINED ALL JS CADETS TO RESIST ANY MIND CONTROL LESS POWERFUL THAN DARKSEID'S OWN!!
I CAN STILL CONTROL YOU WITH MY MENTAL POWERS!!
BAH!! I'LL WASTE NO MORE TIME WITH THIS!
HUH?
NO YOU DON'T, LITTLE MAN.
UHH!!
I'M NOT FINISHED WITH..
GROSSMAN, DELAY HIM!
WHAT IN ?!!?
7


AN ASH-CRAWLER!!
A CREATURE FROM THE FIRE-PITS OF APOCALIPS!!
IT'S AS STRONG AS TEN MEN!!
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN..
HUM?
BARDA!!
DON'T BREAK MY CONCENTRATION, SCOTT!
THE ASH CRAWLER HAS ONLY ONE WEAK SPOT!
THE TINY ORGAN WHICH FUNCTIONS AS ITS BRAIN!
TO GET TO IT I MUST REACH PAST THE WRITHING TENTACLES
AND FORCE MY HAND INTO THE LIVING FLESH OF THE...
THERE!!
SKUNCH!
18

DONE!
BARDA!
HE'S GONE WHILE I KILLED THE
SLEEZ ... HAS MASTER MIMICK!
BUT
MY OTHER SUPER SENSES ARE STILL FUNCTIONAL
SUPER MEMORIES!
OKAY, SLEEZ THIS TIME IT'S
YOU DON'T HAVE BARDA'S MEGA-ROD TO KNOCK ME
AND CONSCIOUS I'M MORE THAN A MATCH FOR YOUR PSYCHIC POWERS!

...FOR A MATCH?
SKRATCH!


GREAT.
...SCOTT...!!

SO HE ELECTED SUICIDE OVER CAPTURE?
YES.
HIS MATCH IGNITED ALL THE GASES FROM THE DECOMPOSING SEWAGE.
AMAZING!
AND A TRIFLE FRUSTRATING!
THE BLAST BLEW OFF MANHOLE COVERS ALL OVER SUICIDE SLUM!

WELL... I SUPPOSE DARKSEID WILL BE PLEASED!
ACCORDING TO WHAT SLEEZ TOLD BARDA, HE USED TO BE DARKSEID'S HENCHMAN.
UNTIL HE FELL FROM FAVOR AND DARKSEID BANISHED HIM TO THE EARTH.
I GUESS THAT'S WHY DARKSEID GOT IN TOUCH WITH ME-- TO MAKE SURE WE FINISHED THE JOB.
COULDN'T BE BOTHERED WITH IT HIMSELF!

THAT EXPLAINS HOW YOU CAME TO FIND ME, SCOTT.
BUT... SUPERMAN, YOU TRIED TO STOP ME ATTACKING SLEEZ WHEN YOU FIRST ARRIVED. *
WHY??
* LAST ISSUE.

I'M AFRAID I CAN'T REALLY GIVE YOU AN ANSWER ON THAT ONE, BARDA.
YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO TAKE MY WORD FOR IT THAT MY ACTIONS WERE WELL-INTENTIONED.
I... GUESS WE CAN DO THAT, SUPERMAN.

BUT..
BARDA... MY MEMORY OF WHAT HAPPENED WHILE WE WERE UNDER SLEEZ'S CONTROL IS FOGGY...
SAY NO MORE, SUPERMAN. MY RECOLLECTION IS AS CLOUDED AS YOUR OWN.
BUT IT SEEMS WE... I MEAN YOU AND I...
I THINK IT FOR THE BEST WE LEAVE IT THAT WAY.

PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT.
SUPERMAN...
UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN...
GOOD-BYE BARDA... MIRACLE...

I COULDN'T TELL SCOTT FREE AND BARDA THE WHOLE STORY BECAUSE IT BEGAN HERE..
WITH SOMETHING I LEARNED AS...
CLARK KENT!
I DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE YOU BACK SO SOON!
I... AH... CAME TO OFFER MY CONDOLENCES, DOCTOR KINCAID.
I... AH... HEARD ABOUT THE DEATHS IN YOUR SPECIAL WARD.
DEATHS?
ALL THE PATIENTS YOU SAW YESTERDAY ARE UNCHANGED, MR. KENT.
SEE FOR YOURSELF...
HE'S RIGHT!!
THE RADIATION I DETECTED IN THEIR BODIES YESTERDAY IS STILL THERE!
STILL KEEPING THEM ALL ALIVE!
BUT... I'D DETERMINED THAT RADIATION CAME FROM SLEEZ!
HE FED ON HUMAN MISERY AND THE DESTRUCTION OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT..
BUT SOMEHOW HE GAVE OFF THE EXCESS ENERGY AS PURE LIFE FORCE!
THAT LIFE FORCE IS WHAT'S KEEPING THESE OLD PEOPLE ALIVE.
WITH SLEEZ GONE, I EXPECTED THEM ALL TO BE DEAD.
BUT IF THEY'RE STILL ALIVE...
NEXT
BOOSTER GOLD
NO KIDDING.
22

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Time once again for another letters page. We're gettin' tons of letters here at the Superman office each month ... but we'd like to know what some different readers think about ACTION COMICS, once in a while! C'mon, we know you're out there—we can hear you reading ... now, it's time to write!

Dear DC:

You win some, you lose some. In the case of ACTION #589 you guys won. But let's get specific: why did you guys win?

1) The cover was terrific. I wrote to you a couple of issues back, asking you to avoid "Superman-fighting-the-guest-hero(es)" covers, as we had on issues 584, 586, and 587. Since he didn't fight the Hols on last issue's cover, I figured this issue's would have him fighting the GL's. Fortunately, it did not.

2) I was also pleased with the way Hal Jordan, best-known of the GL's, dominated neither the cover nor the story. To me, the alien GL's can be equally, if not more, interesting. I'm glad that John Byrne apparently felt the same way. It was logical, of course, that Hal assume something of a leadership role, as he is (as far as we know) the most experienced and best-respected GL in the group.

3) I liked the fact that Superman did not overshadow the guest stars, as he has in so many ACTION/DC PRESENTS stories. Personally, I prefer that the action (pardon the pun) be somewhat equally shared in team-up stories.

4) The final panel of the issue was terrific. Salakk's and Ch'p's serving as foils for each other provides for great dialogue.

I look forward to next issue's return of the Metal Men. John's doing a nice job of teaming Superman both with well-known and more obscure stars in the DC universe. I hope to see team-ups with Captain Atom and Infinity, Inc. soon. Also, how about a Batman team-up? Just because he and the Man of Steel are not friends doesn't mean team-ups of the two wouldn't occur.

Frank Balkin
Address withheld

All righty, Frank, old boy, just turn yourself right around and get yourself back to your local comics shoppe or comics vending emporium because this year's ACTION ANNUAL (#1, but who's counting?) is going to be on sale any minute! And as you say Batman and Superman are not as good buddies as one might like, but team-ups sometimes do occur! This annual's served up by Messrs. John Byrne, Arthur Adams and Dick Giordano, and it's really got bite!

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Dear John, Dick, Tom, John, Mike and Andy:

I thought ACTION #589 was fantastic!! I was never a big Superman fan until I picked up MAN OF STEEL #1 and now every new Superman story has been just terrific!

I'm still not much of a fan of the Green Lantern Corps but I found it enjoyable to see that John Byrne can write DC characters as if he created them.

Here is a list of the people or teams that I would like to see in ACTION: Captain Atom, Suicide Squad, Firestorm, Blue Beetle, Justice League, Flash, Booster Gold, the Outsiders, Batman, Hawk and Wonder Woman (but you hinted about that story in ACTION #584—you know, the story that you and George Perez are cooking up)!

I'm running to the end of the page so I'd best cut it short by saying that DC rules!

Eric Buscher
11515 Mtn. Laurel Dr.
Roswell, GA 30075

You may have been running to the end of your page, Eric, but we're just getting started ...

* * * * *

Dear Andy, John and Mike:

Gentleman, I've long awaited Superman's team-up with the Green Lantern Corps. ACTION #589 was not a disappointment. This most recent ACTION boosted my faith in John as a scripter and penciller. The Corps appeared in rare form. The characterization was well handled; these are obviously the same Green Lantern's that are written by Steve Englehart each month and not just another writer's interpretation.

I was delighted—as well as surprised—to see the entity from ACTION #585 reappear in these pages. This finally begins to lend some continuity to ACTION's seemingly unrelated material. I must state that I think that this book shows great potential. I am looking forward to future issues with great anticipation. This issue has belayed any doubts I might have had in the quality of this magazine. Keep up the good work. Thanks and good luck.

The Hammer
4327-13B Judith Lane
Huntsville, AL 35805

Hmmmmph, one might expect a hammer to do a little more damage than that, Hem of' man ... not that we're complainin' mind you ...

* * * * *

Dear Andy, Mike, John, Tom, John and Company:

I personally think that you people missed a great cover opportunity by not having Superman and Ch'p fighting side-by-side, shoulder-to-shoulder on ACTION #589. I mean, how often are you going to be able to see two such extremely opposite heroes working together? It would have been terrific!! Oh, well...

Even though Superman didn't appear with Ch'p on the cover, and even though they didn't even get to work together in the body of the story, "Green on Green" was still a pretty good story. I've always wondered what incredible things Superman's will power could do with one of the Lantern's rings. This story might have been the closest I'll ever come to finding out.

The story also brought up an interesting point that I've always wondered about. There is a reference in the story to the power rings creating "plasma." I had always thought the green light created by the rings was more like a form, of light energy that could make itself solid (sort of an overdeveloped laser beam). I guess the question then is, just what form of energy does the power ring produce? The term "plasma" seems to support the idea that the rings generate some form of living or organic energy. If that is the case, exactly how does it work? Inquiring minds want to know. *I* want to know!

T.E. Pouncey
Wichita, KS 67208

We think you've hit the nail on the head with your "living energy" theory, there, T.E.—but to find out exactly how that stuff works you'll have to get yourself a subscription to THE OAN ENQUIRER ... you see, the postage on ordering that unique publication is too much for us modestly paid editor-types!

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Dear John, Dick, Tom, John, Andy, and last but not least...Mike:

First I'd like to congratulate DC on getting the services of one Mike Carlin, who makes letter pages fun again. Oconomowoc.

ACTION COMICS #589 was the best issue so far with the "team-up" format.

John handled the Green Lantern Corps exceptionally well. The title of this comic certainly fits well also. It's ACTION all right, but not the mindless action that we see too often. John is a master of thoughtful action, and for an example I refer you to page 14, panel 2. This may not be a realistic thing that the GL Corps are doing, but I would never have thought of it. That is what makes John Byrne a good writer; he comes up with ideas that the reader would never think of. It would spell certain doom for a comic title if the reader knew immediately what the hero or heroes would do to stop a menace or villain.

The art, too, was top-notch.

John Costenza remains my favorite letterer. His style is the most recognizable in comics.

I have only collected DC comics actively for the past year, after getting sick and tired of that "other company." The Metal Men I am unfamiliar with, but I hear good things about them. I'd like to see Superman team up with such unused heroes as Atom and Aquaman.

Okay, that's it. My letter is over.

Bob Wayne Koziowski
16 W. 72056th Place
Clarendon Hills, IL 60514

So you like the style of this letter column, eh, Bob? That's great. Unfortunately, we're not everyone's cup of type. Dig this...

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

Re: ACTION #589. The story/art/etc. were very good.

Your letter column is another matter. The way you (and other editors in other magazines) fawn over that T.M. Maple character makes me want to vomit.

No wonder comics, in general, have gone downhill these past 4-5 years. I started collecting in 1964. I am now in the process of stopping, things are so bad (what with people bowing down and worshipping this demi-god).

Shoot, if all I did for a living was read comics I could write about them too. Unfortunately, I have to work for a living!

So take this letter for what it's worth. Print it (and risk the wrath of Canada) or not, I don't care. I won't see it anyway.

Kenneth Hirsig
Beloit, Wisconsin

P.S. Oconomowoc is a great town. Stop fawning and go see it!

We weren't going to mention T.M. or Oconomowoc at all this month, Kenneth—thanks for reminding us to.

Oh, oh, it looks like everyone in Oconomowoc's ears were burning there—well, at least one pair anyway...

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Dear Andy, Mike, John, etc.:

Concerning Oconomowoc: there's a sign at a park downtown which claims that Oconomowoc means "Falling Waters," but I'm inclined to disagree. This place is too strange to have such a mundane explanation for such an outlandish title.

It is my current theory that Oconomowoc is really a complex mathematical formula that can be read thusly:

O^5 equals CNMWC.

If any physics majors would care to interpret this for me, I would be eternally grateful.

Mark Haden Frazer
W39700 Sunnyfield Dr.
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

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Dear Editors:

I still can't explain how John Byrne does it. He takes characters that I don't care much about and he makes me love them. I can hardly wait to see his rendition of the Metal Men.

Travis MacKinnon
Scarborough, Ontario
Canada

We don't really need to have John's knack explained to us, Trav—we just keep sending him WHO's WHO and turning him loose!

* * * * *

Dear DC:

I think it was in the text page of the first John Byrne issue of ACTION COMICS that he stated that we would know who his favorite members of the Green Lantern Corps were when they finally teamed up with Superman. I also read that Hal Jordan was a favorite of Byrne's, and I was really wondering if, despite all good intentions, he wouldn't end up stealing the limelight in the story. Well, with the seven general Corps members featured, including the four that were spotlighted, things were fair all around.

Before I comment on ACTION #589, I would like first to say that I recognize that it must be an awesome responsibility for John to take a character or team that someone else has been laboring with in another title and make sure that nothing is done here that might thwart their efforts there. For instance, if Steve Englehart has spent so great a time in establishing the credentials of the entire Corps in their title, then I suppose it would have breached professional ethics for John to have featured only Hal Jordan in a team-up here in ACTION. And further, John must assure that at least the same quality is maintained in ACTION as is in the guest star's main feature, because that can create a sales advantage. If I wasn't already reading THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS, a story like that found in ACTION #589 might be the deciding factor in such a case. To tell you the truth, John did so well this issue that there is bound to be an increase in sales in the Corps own title.

It's interesting to think how involved this story, "Green on Green" is. The reasons for Superman's appearance come from two angles: first, due to the Shadow War in HAWKMAN and the Man of Steel's eventual assistance in same; and second, due to a clump of dirt that Superman rendered seemingly harmless in #585. The Corps is here due to numerous circumstances depicted in their own title, and due to the immediate need of the Therils. And, shoot, I remember John saying that he would avoid cross-over continuity. Sometimes it is difficult to avoid.

Again, referring to John's text page in #585, it's good to see he's keeping with his "generic" action-oriented adventures in #589. John said he would try to show Superman's place in the arena of heroes. He accomplished this well this month. What I really liked was that Superman wasn't portrayed as the particularly superior force here. If anything, his weaknesses were highlighted: Arisia found him in an unconscious state, and when Superman thought he had solved the dilemma in 585, he found out there that his "solution" created a worse problem. Of course, the Corps couldn't stop the thing alone, so their efforts were combined, showing the equality of your stars.

To end, I will say but one thing: when I thought after the MAN OF STEEL miniseries that I wouldn't be interested in the three new titles, I still find that all three are on my "must-get" list, and that I usually read them each week before the other titles I buy. Now is that a compliment or what?

Chris Khalaf
5126 Georgi Lane
Houston, TX 77092

It sure is a compliment, Chris, thanks for writin' in and saying so. Sorry that we couldn't print your whole letter, but we had to leave room to tell everybody about...

NEXT ISSUE: It had to happen! (We know that's what they all say—but we ain't kiddin' this time!) BOOSTER GOLD teaches SUPERMAN a lesson he'll never forget! And when class is over only one of these heroes will be left in Metropolis! You'll kick yourself where the Man of Gold kicks the Man of Steel if you miss this one, gang! It's by John Byrne, Keith Williams, Tom Ziuko, John Costanza and the rest—and it's winging your way in thirty big ones!